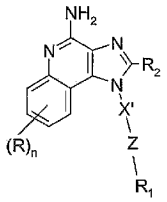
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula (II):



(II)

wherein:

Z is ~~-CH=CH- or~~ -C≡C-;

X' is -CH(R_3)- [[,]] or -CH(R_3)-alkylene-;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of:

-Ar, and

-Ar'-Y-R_4~~, and~~

~~-Ar'-X-Y-R_4, and~~

~~-Ar'-R_5~~;

Ar is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ phenyl ~~aryl~~ which can be unsubstituted or can be substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, cyano, carboxy, formyl, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkylenyl, amino, alkylamino, and dialkylamino;

Ar' is phenylene ~~selected from the group consisting of arylene which can be unsubstituted or can be substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of~~

~~alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, cyano, carboxy, formyl, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkylenyl, amino, alkylamino, and dialkylamino~~;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl, wherein the alkyl group can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl and alkoxy;

~~X is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, alkenylene, alkynylene, arylene, heteroarylene, and heterocyclylene wherein the alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene groups can be optionally interrupted or terminated with arylene, heteroarylene, or heterocyclylene, and wherein the alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene groups can be optionally interrupted by one or more -O- groups;~~

Y is selected from the group consisting of:

~~-S(O)$_{0-2}$-,~~

~~-S(O)$_2$-N(R_8)-,~~

-C(R_6)-,

-C(R_6)-O-,

-O-C(R_6)-, and

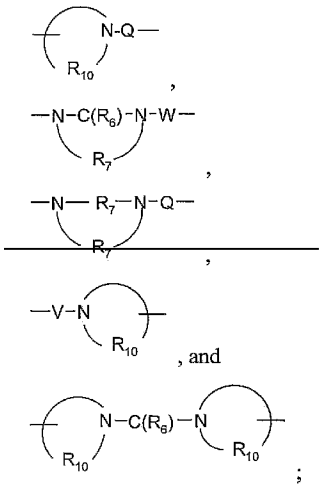
-O-C(O)-O- [[,]];

~~-N(R_8)-Q-,~~

~~-C(R_6)-N(R_8)-,~~

~~-O-C(R_6)-N(R_8)-,~~

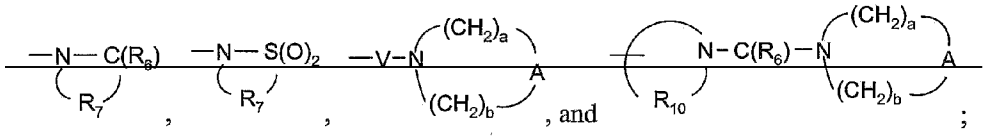
~~-C(R_6)-N(OR_9)-,~~



R_3 is hydrogen or $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl~~, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxyl, mercapto, cyano, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heterorylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, (dialkylamino)alkyleneoxy, and in the case of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, and heterocyclyl, oxo~~;

~~R_5 is selected from the group consisting of:~~



R_6 is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ =O ~~and =S~~;

~~R_7 is $C_{2\text{-}7}$ alkylene;~~

~~R_8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxyalkylenyl, and arylalkylenyl;~~

~~R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;~~

~~R_{10} is $C_{3\text{-}8}$ alkylene;~~

~~A is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, -S(O)$_{0-2}$-, -CH$_2$- and -N(R$_4$)-;~~

~~Q is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -C(R$_6$)-, -C(R$_6$)-C(R$_6$)-, -S(O)$_2$-, -C(R$_6$)-N(R$_8$)-W-, -S(O)$_2$-N(R$_8$)-, -C(R$_6$)-O-, and -C(R$_6$)-N(OR$_9$)-;~~

~~V is selected from the group consisting of -C(R$_6$)-, -O-C(R$_6$)-, -N(R$_8$)-C(R$_6$)-, and -S(O)$_2$-;~~

~~W is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -C(O)-, and -S(O)$_2$-; and~~

~~a and b are independently integers from 1 to 6 with the proviso that a + b is $\leq$ 7;~~

~~R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, halogen, and trifluoromethyl;~~ and

n is 0 ~~or 1~~;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 2 wherein R_2 is hydrogen, alkyl, or alkoxyalkylenyl.

4. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 3 wherein R_2 is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, 2-methoxyethyl, or ethoxymethyl.

5. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 2 wherein X' is -CH_2-$C(CH_3)_2$-, methylene, or propylene.

6. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 2 wherein X' is -CH_2-, -$(CH_2)_2$-, or -$(CH_2)_3$-.

7. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 2 wherein R_1 is -Ar.

8. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 7 wherein R_1 is phenyl wherein the phenyl group can be unsubstituted or substituted by alkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, nitro, or cyano.

9. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 8 wherein R_1 is phenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 3-fluorophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 3-methoxyphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 3-trifluoromethylphenyl, or 4-trifluoromethylphenyl.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 2 wherein Z is -C≡C-.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 2 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 2 to the animal.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a viral disease in an animal in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 2 to the animal.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal in need thereof comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 2 to the animal.

17.-18. (Canceled)